

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 08188 281321Z
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 EUR-08 INR-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 SP-02 NSC-05 SES-01 PM-03 L-01
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P R 281217Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 046
INFO USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T TEHRAN 08188

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, IR, IZ, UR, SA
SUBJ: AUDIENCE WITH SHAH - IRAQ

1. DURING AUGUST 28 AUDIENCE WITH SHAH, I ASKED ABOUT CURRENT STATE OF IRAN'S RELATIONS WITH IRAQ. SHAH SAID THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT IRAQ BAATH LEADERSHIP GOT QUITE A JOLT OUT OF AFGHANISTAN. AS A RESULT, THE IRAQ GOVT HAS NOT ONLY TURNED AGAINST THE COMMUNISTS INTERNALLY, BUT HAS SHOWN A LIMITED WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE, AT LEAST PASSIVELY, WITH IRAN AND OTHER COUNTRIES CONCERNED ABOUT SOVIET PENETRATION OF THE AREA.

2. HE SAID, FOR INSTANCE, THAT IRAQIS HAD RECENTLY ACKNOWLEDGED TO THE IRANIANS THAT THE SOVIETS WERE NOW THE ONLY EXTERNAL SUPPORTERS OF THE KURDS AND THAT IRANIAN-IRAQI COLLABORATION ON THE KURDISH PROBLEM WAS SATISFACTORY.

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3. I ASKED WHETHER THIS SORT OF ATTITUDE EXTENDED TO CURBING THE ACTION OF AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI. THE SHAH SAID HE HAD RAISED THIS QUESTION WITH THE NEW IRAQI AMBASSADOR AND HAD RECEIVED AN ANSWER THROUGH ANOTHER CHANNEL WHICH INDICATED THAT BAGHDAD WOULD SEEK TO KEEP THE AYATOLLAH UNDER CLOSER CONTROL. BUT HE SHRUGGED HIS SHOULDERS TO SUGGEST THAT HE HAD DOUBTS

ABOUT THE SINCERITY OF THIS GESTURE.

4. I THEN ASKED WHETHER THE SAUDIS HAD ANY INFLUENCE
WITH THE SHI'A CLERGY IN IRAN. THE SHAH EXPRESSED
DOUBTS THAT THE SUNNI LEADERSHIP CARRIED MUCH WEIGHT
WITH THE LOCAL AYATOLLAHS. WHEN I MENTIONED RECENT
STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR THE SHAH BY SAUDI LEADERS,
HE SEEMED TO DISMISS THEM AS MERE ARAB POLITESSE.
SULLIVAN

SECRET

NNN

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